



SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT 2006

# Welcome

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

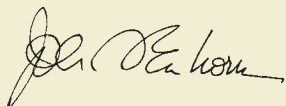


On behalf of the Superior Court of the State of California for San Diego County, I hope this Resource Book gives the public—our users—a better understanding of the workings of the third largest trial court in the United States.

While our court system continues to evolve, one objective has remained constant: the mission of this court is to provide a system of justice where all people are treated with respect, their issues are heard in a timely fashion, and the public is confident that equal access to justice is achieved. It is also important to this court that justice is provided in an open and understandable environment.

In 2005, the State Judicial Council conducted a survey to gauge the public attitude toward the California court system. The results were interesting. While most held positive feelings about the court, two strong concerns were expressed: the public voiced a need for an independent court and called for a court that was more approachable, more understandable.

It is the goal of this Resource Book to bring the Superior Court of San Diego County to you. We will tell you who we are, what we have been doing in 2005, and what we can do for you. It is my hope that if, or when, you have need to pass through our doors, you will possess a clearer understanding of our court system and know that we continually strive to serve the public in a fair, accessible and even-handed manner.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John S. Einhorn'.

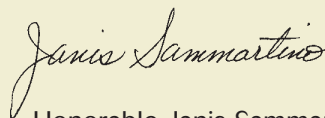
Honorable John S. Einhorn  
Presiding Judge 2005



As incoming Presiding Judge, I welcome you to the inaugural issue of our court's Resource Book. I hope you find the information contained herein useful in increasing your understanding about the court and the diversity of programs we operate.

Many people are surprised to learn that San Diego is the second largest trial court system in the state and third largest in the nation, with over 1,600 employees and 154 judges, commissioners and referees serving a population of three million. With more than six hundred thousand civil and criminal case filings and nearly two hundred thousand jurors serving the court each year, a very large segment of our region's population is touched by San Diego's judicial system. In addition, our court provides educational tour programs for thousands of elementary through community college students and nearly a thousand volunteers provide support to our court.

It is my goal to provide the leadership that ensures a judicial system that is fair, efficient, understandable and accessible to the public we serve. Our Chief Justice, Ronald M. George, has made increasing the public's trust and confidence in the judicial system a priority. This will be a constant theme throughout my tenure as presiding judge. I encourage you to visit your local courts, ask questions, and share this information with family, business associates, and friends.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Janis Sammartino'.

Honorable Janis Sammartino  
Assistant Presiding Judge 2005



## 2006

Presiding Judge

**JANIS SAMMARTINO**

Assistant Presiding Judge

**KENNETH K. SO**

Executive Committee Judges:

Herbert J. Exarhos

Jeffrey F. Fraser

William J. Howatt, Jr.

Susan D. Huguenor

Linda B. Quinn

Robert J. Trentacosta

Marguerite L. Wagner

Michael M. Anello

Kevin A. Enright

Lisa Guy-Schall

Frederic L. Link

Allan J. Preckel

Jacqueline M. Stern

Michael D. Wellington

John S. Einhorn



Left to Right

Judge Janis Sammartino

Judge Kenneth K. So

Judge Herbert J. Exarhos

Judge Jeffrey F. Fraser

Judge William J. Howatt, Jr.

Judge Susan D. Huguenor

Judge Lisa Guy-Schall

Judge Linda B. Quinn

Judge Jacqueline M. Stern

Judge Marguerite L. Wagner

Judge Michael D. Wellington

Judge Allan J. Preckel

Judge Frederic L. Link

Judge Michael M. Anello

Judge Robert J. Trentacosta

Judge Kevin A. Enright

Judge John S. Einhorn (Ex Officio Member)

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## Mission Statement

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal law.

# CALIFORNIA COURT SYSTEM



The Superior Court in San Diego County is part of the California trial court system, which is the largest of its kind in the world with 58 trial courts throughout the state (one in each county).

Each trial court in California is managed by a Presiding Judge.

In San Diego, the Presiding Judge receives policy advice from an Executive Committee of Judges. Elected by fellow judges, the Presiding Judge serves a two-year term. Day-to-day oversight and administrative management are provided by the Court Executive Officer.

The State Court System is governed by a 27-member Judicial Council led by the State's Supreme Court Chief Justice.

The Judicial Council is the policy-making body of the California Courts and is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the support staff of the Judicial Council.

## CALIFORNIA'S FOUR LARGEST COURTS

- Los Angeles County
- San Diego County
- Orange County
- Alameda County



## What Does the Superior Court Do?

**All Superior Courts in California have authority over a wide variety of case types such as:**

**Criminal Cases** — Both felony and misdemeanor crimes (including such offenses as driving under the influence -DUI cases). In criminal cases, if the defendant cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one.

**Traffic Cases** — All traffic infractions such as speeding tickets and red-light camera tickets.

**Non-Traffic Infraction Cases** — Cases involving violation of various city municipal codes such as pedestrian violations, smoking in a prohibited area, bicycling on the sidewalk, and sleeping on a park bench.

**Civil Cases** — Includes both limited cases (\$25,000 or less) and unlimited cases (over \$25,000). May involve cases in which a person, group of persons or other legal entity brings an action to recover money or property, to enforce a contract, or to protect someone's civil rights

**Small Claims Cases** — A civil case for monetary judgment of \$7,500 or less (effective January 2006).

**Family Law Cases** — Includes dissolution (also known as divorce), legal separation of spouses, marriage annulments, child custody, spousal support, and domestic violence restraining orders.

**Family Support Matters** — Child support and related cases in which the County Department of Child Support files an action.

**Probate Cases** — Includes, but is not limited to, decedents' estates, trust proceedings, guardianship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for a person under the age of 18), and conservatorship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for an adult unable to care for himself or herself).

**Juvenile Court Cases** — Cases involving juvenile dependency (abuse or neglect of a child) or juvenile delinquency (minors breaking the law).

**Landlord/Tenant Dispute Cases** — Cases where a landlord attempts to evict a tenant (also known as unlawful detainers).

**Mental Health Cases** — Countywide responsibility for cases requiring psychiatric evaluations, investigations, hearings and bench trials.





# C O U R T F A S T F A C T S



Starting with one judge and one courtroom in Old Town serving mere hundreds, the Court in San Diego now provides judicial services for millions. Below are some quick facts about today's Superior Court:

## JUDICIAL OFFICERS

- 128 Judges
- 26 Commissioners and Referees



**Judge** — A judge is either elected to the court or appointed by the Governor. A judge has the authority to decide cases brought before the court.

**Commissioner/Referee** — A commissioner or referee is selected by the judges of the court and is given powers to hear and make decisions concerning certain legal matters.

## AREA SERVED

- 4,261 Square Miles

## POPULATION SERVED

- More than 3.05 million people

## COURT FACILITIES

- 10 Court Facilities

## SUPPORT STAFF

- 1,678 Employees

Court Support Staff includes: Administrative, Budget, Business Office Clerks, Courtroom Clerks, Court Reporters, Evaluation and Planning, Facilities, Family Court Counselors, Family Law Facilitators and Mediators, Human Resources, Interpreters, Information Technology Staff, Judicial Secretaries, Personnel, Research Attorneys, and Substance Abuse Assessors.

## What is A Judge Pro Tempore or Pro Tem?

Pro Tempore is a Latin phrase which means "temporary." It is often shortened to "pro tem." A Judge Pro Tem is an attorney who has been approved by the court to substitute for a judge.

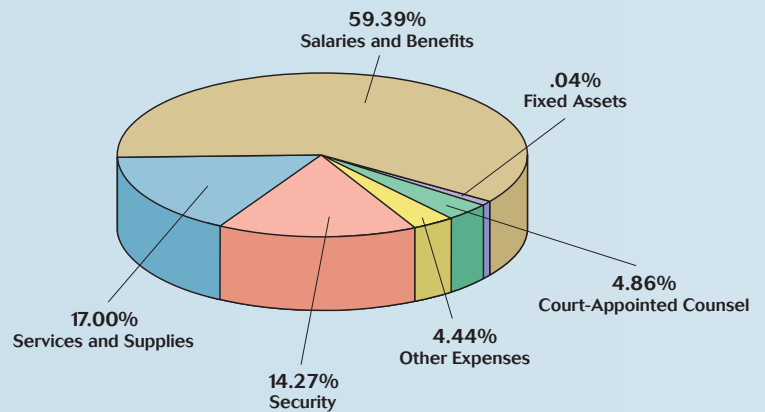
In the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, judges pro tempore, commissioners and referees may hear certain criminal, juvenile and family court matters, as well as traffic, child support, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases.



## Court Budget

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.

	FY 05-06 Budget	FY 05-06 Budget as Percentage of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 134,267,655	59.39%
Services and Supplies	\$ 38,439,609	17.00%
Security	\$ 32,272,348	14.27%
Fixed Assets	\$ 100,000	0.04%
Court-Appointed Counsel	\$ 10,990,000	4.86%
Other Expenses	\$ 10,031,990	4.44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 226,101,602</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Budgeted Positions	1,688.98	



### Expenditure Descriptions

**Salaries and Benefits** – Salaries and benefits of all court employees except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

**Services and Supplies** – Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

**Security** – Cost for court security provided by San Diego County Sheriff's Department and private security firms.

**Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (i.e. furniture, copy machines).

**Court-Appointed Counsel** – Cost of providing court-appointed attorneys in cases involving minors.

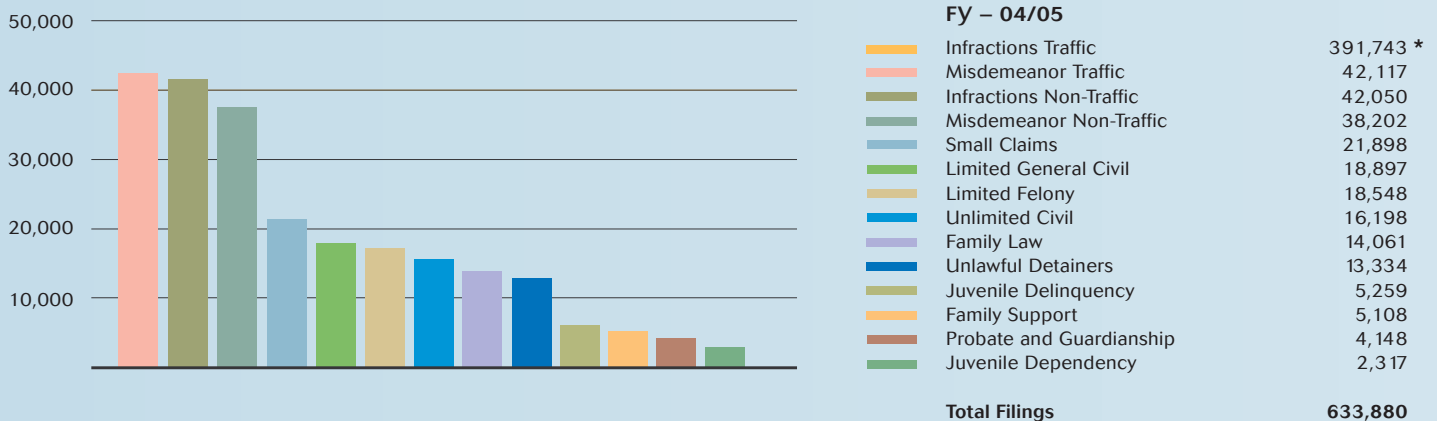
**Other Expenses** – Includes payment of County services (e.g. custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

## Court Filings

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County.

From July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 (Fiscal Year 04/05) total filings for all case types were almost 634,000.

### SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY – TOTAL FILINGS



\*This bar chart does not depict traffic infractions of 391,743. Traffic infractions make up the highest percentage, accounting for over 60% of all filings.



# LOCATIONS AND COURT SERVICES

Here are the locations of your court facilities and the services each location provides:

## Central Division

**General Information – (619) 531-4420**



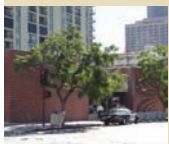
**County Courthouse**  
220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Appeals  
Criminal—Felonies and Misdemeanors  
Family Law Facilitator  
Family Support Division  
Office of Court Reporting Services—Transcripts  
Older Court Records—Records Research



**Hall of Justice**  
330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Civil—Limited and Unlimited Civil (including Unlawful Detainers)  
Jury Commissioner's Office  
Jury Services  
Personnel



**Family Court**  
1501-55 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Family Law: Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)



**Madge Bradley Building**  
1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders  
Probate, Guardianships and Conservatorships



**Kearny Mesa Traffic Court**  
8950 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92123

Small Claims  
Small Claims Legal Advisor  
Traffic and other Infractions and Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



**Juvenile Court**  
2851 Meadowlark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

Adoptions and Emancipations  
Juvenile Delinquency  
Juvenile Dependency  
Juvenile Non-Traffic Infractions



## South County Division

**General Information**  
**(619) 691-4728**

**South Bay Regional Center**  
500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil—Limited and Unlimited Civil  
(including Unlawful Detainers)  
Criminal—Felonies and Misdemeanors,  
Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live (for example, which court area or jurisdiction in which you live).
- Where the legal issue occurred (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction it happened).
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile delinquency matters are heard only in the Central Division).

## North County Division

*General Information – (760) 726-9595*

### Vista Regional Center

**325 South Melrose Avenue, Vista, CA 92081**

Civil—Limited and Unlimited Civil (including Unlawful Detainers)  
Criminal - Felonies and Misdemeanors  
Family Court Services (e.g. Mediators)  
Family Law—Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence  
Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offense—Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Probate, Guardianships and Conservatorships  
Small Claims  
Small Claims Legal Advisor  
Traffic—including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



## East County Division

*General Information – (619) 441-4100*

### East County Regional Center

**250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020**

Civil—Limited and Unlimited Civil (including Unlawful Detainers)  
Criminal - Felonies and Misdemeanors  
Family Court Services (e.g. Mediators)  
Family Law—Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence  
Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offense—Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Small Claims  
Small Claims Legal Advisor  
Traffic—including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



### Ramona Branch

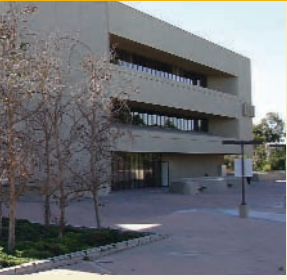
**1428 Montecito Road, Ramona, CA 92065  
(760) 738-2400**

Civil—Unlawful Detainers and Small Claims  
Criminal—Adjudicated Criminal Misdemeanors  
Juvenile—Traffic Infractions and Misdemeanor Minor Offenses  
Minor Offense—Infractions, including Traffic



Family Law—Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence  
Restraining Orders, Child Custody and support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offense—Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Small Claims  
Small Claims Legal Advisor  
Traffic—including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego** places great importance on community outreach and education. The court provides opportunities for the public to see the court in action by providing guided tours and opportunities to observe actual court hearings in progress. All judges and staff are committed to informing the public about the workings of the local court and the California judicial system.

## Volunteers

In 2005, more than 900 community volunteers, student interns, and Judges Pro Tempore donated more than 33,000 hours of service to the Superior Court. Their dedication, time and talents helped to enhance court operations in virtually every area of the court, including:

- Caring for children in the children's waiting rooms;
- Assisting the public at information desks;
- Conducting courthouse tours for school-aged children;
- Working in business offices;
- Assisting new jurors during orientation;
- Helping unrepresented litigants with family law matters;
- Working on special projects;
- Presiding over small claims and traffic matters as Pro Tem Judges.





## Student Outreach

From courthouse tours to the "Justice 101" program to special events during Law Week, students in San Diego County have a unique opportunity to experience the California justice system firsthand. Court programs offer an inside look into how the court is structured, how jury trials are conducted, and how making wrong choices can impact young lives.

### Students participating in Student Outreach and Education Programs 2004/2005

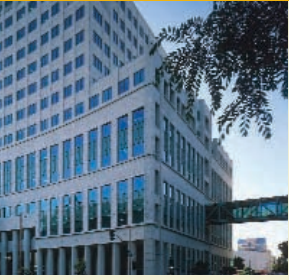
**4,751 Students**  
**93 Schools**



## Justice 101

*Justice 101* is an educational program for high school seniors to complement and enhance their American Government course work. Students participating in the program spend a day at the superior court viewing "The Path to Justice," a video about the California Justice System; participating in an open and candid discussion with a Superior Court Judge about the law and how making the wrong choices can adversely affect their future; and visiting and observing courtrooms in session.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Law Week

In 1961, the first day of May was set aside by a joint resolution of Congress as “Law Day USA,” an occasion for Americans to celebrate their liberties and explore the ideals of equality and justice under the law. Since then, Law Day has evolved into Law Week. The Superior Court offers a variety of activities and programs in conjunction with Law Week designed to educate school-aged children about the justice system.

### Law Week 2005 participation

1,532 Students  
23 Schools



## On My Honor

*On My Honor* is a complete educational experience for both elementary and middle school students. It was originally conceived and implemented by the North County Division of the court, and has expanded to other divisions. The program, which received a 2002 Ralph N. Kleps

Award from the Judicial Council, includes a class curriculum, teacher’s guide, lesson plans and activities. It also includes a visit to the court and participation in a mock trial. During the mock trial, which is presided over by a judge, every student joins in as counsel, jury member, court reporter, or defendant. The program teaches thousands of youth about the legal system, the courts, and the administration of justice.



## Children's Waiting Room

The Children's Waiting Room is a form of community outreach: the waiting rooms, which can be found at seven court locations in the Central, East, North and South County Division Courthouses, provide a safe place for children while parents or guardians testify or attend court proceedings. The waiting rooms allow a large segment of the community to utilize the court without leaving children in courthouse hallways where heavy foot traffic, sight of prisoners in jailhouse garb and the emotionally charged atmosphere can be frightening for small children.



The waiting rooms provide the children with a safer, more nurturing alternative to the hallway. Child-sized furniture, toys, games and playmates all contribute to an oasis of calm.

## Want to Learn More About the Court?

Judges and court staff are available to meet with school and community organizations to talk about how the court works and the challenges and opportunities facing the California Justice System.

**Would you like to schedule a courthouse tour or speaker for your organization?**

**Tours:** (619) 531-3489

**Speakers:** (619) 531-4484

**Visitors from around the world tour the San Diego Court**, meeting with judges and staff to learn how our judicial system works. Some recent visiting dignitaries have been from the countries of:

<b>Belarus</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Micronesia</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>Congo</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>Turkey</b>
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>Uzbekistán</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Zambia</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	
<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	



# JURY DUTY



**When you receive a summons to serve as a juror** in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. The duties of a juror are as important as the duties of a judge. Jurors determine the credibility of witnesses and are the ultimate finders of the facts.

The Superior Court's Jury Services Office touches the lives of more people than any other division of the court and understands the commitment jury service entails for all who serve. Sometimes the only contact citizens have with the Superior Court is through jury duty and that is why Jury Services is sometimes referred to as the "Court's Goodwill Ambassador."



## DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

**7/24 Access** – The Court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line (up to 96 incoming lines) to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service. A computerized system assists jurors seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A court staff member is available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

**Two-Week Rule** – To make jury service more flexible, one can report up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) before or up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) after the date posted on the jury service summons.

**One Day/One Trial** – Under California law, once a juror has appeared or been called in during the five days required under the court's group management program (*see next page*), the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months. The Superior Court in San Diego goes a step further: if a juror is actually sworn to serve on a trial, that juror does not have to serve again for 36 months.

**Free Transportation** – The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service as a way to introduce jurors to public transit. The jury summons has a section on the form where jurors can waive their mileage and receive bus/trolley or coaster tickets for the remainder of their jury service. (Coaster tickets are available only for service in the Downtown San Diego and North County Divisions of the Court).

**Court Transfer** – One can request transfer of jury service to a more convenient location. For example, if you live in the North County but receive notice to report to the downtown courthouse, you can request that your jury service be transferred to North County.

## Group Management

Group management is a system where jurors call in to the court each evening for a week and only come in when the jury administrator is certain there are cases to which the jurors will be sent. The Central and South County Court Divisions utilize group management for juries.

## JURY FAST FACTS

### Number of Jurors Who Served On a Jury

**180,000 (2004)** *Number includes those who served through Group Management (see above)*

### Percentage of Jurors Who Completed Jury Service in One Day

**80 %**

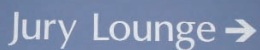
### What a Juror is Paid After First Day of Service (as of 12/05)

**\$15.00 a day plus \$.34 per mile – one way**

### Where the Court Gets Names for the Jury Summons Lists

Department of Motor Vehicles records

Registrar of Voters records



Jury Lounge →

## To Qualify For Jury Duty A Person Must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Currently live in the County of San Diego
- Never have been convicted of a felony
- Never have been convicted of malfeasance in office
- Have sufficient knowledge of the English language
- Not be serving elsewhere as a Trial Juror or Grand Juror
- Not be the subject of a conservatorship





## Helping You Understand the Court System

A cornerstone of the Superior Court's mission is to provide justice in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public. The Court has created a number of programs and tools to help you understand how the court system works to enhance your working relationship with your attorney or to assist you when representing yourself in court.

### SELF-HELP CLINICS

**Family Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinics** – These clinics use volunteer attorneys and community-based organizations to assist victims of domestic violence with the completion of Applications for Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO).

**Family Law Facilitator's Self-Help Centers** – These centers are designed to help people representing themselves in Family Law matters by explaining court processes and assisting with document preparation. Several services are available including help in choosing and completing forms for Family Support actions; education in group clinics or workshops; and information on a variety of family law related court matters.

**Civil Harassment Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Clinics** – These clinics assist participants by explaining the court processes and helping with document preparation.

**Unlawful Detainer Clinics** – These clinics help customers prepare Unlawful Detainers and related requests for fee waivers.

**Conservatorship Clinic** – This clinic includes assistance with legal document preparation and preparation for court hearings relating to conservatorships.

**Guardianship Clinic** – This clinic includes assistance with legal document preparation and preparation for court hearings relating to guardianships.



### Information Brochures

The Superior Court has developed a series of brochures subtitled "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions," which are available at the appropriate court business offices. Brochure topics include:

- Appeals
- Civil Cases/Casos Civil
- Criminal Cases (English/Spanish)
- Family Law Cases/Casos de Derecho Familiar
- Minor Offenses: General Information/Infracciones Información General
- Minor Offenses: Insurance Violations/Infracciones Al Código Vehicular
- Small Claims Court/Tribunal de Demandas Menores
- Unlawful Detainers/Unlawful Detainers Retención Ilegal





## Websites

There are numerous websites available to help guide people through California's trial court system. Some helpful websites include:

### San Diego Superior Court Website <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov>

Great care has been taken during the design of the San Diego Superior Court website to ensure that it is user-friendly and contains information that will be a vehicle to open access to the courts for all members of the community, especially those seeking to "go it alone" in court as self-represented litigants.



On the website there are explanatory sections for each case type, printable forms, and links to valuable resources, some of which are listed below. If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most public libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library (<http://www.sdcll.org>) provide computers, with internet access, to the public.

### California Self-Help Center (Available in English and Spanish) <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/>

This website provides online assistance and information to help you work better with an attorney and/or represent yourself in some legal matters.

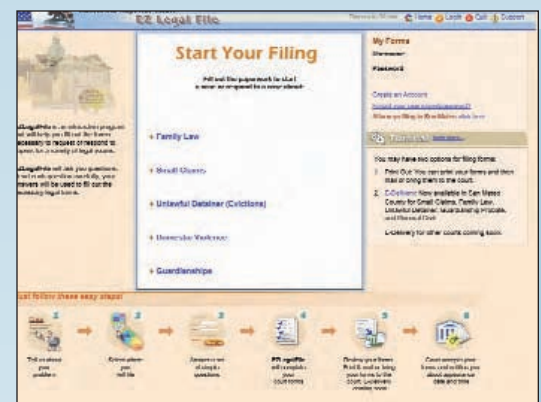
### LawHelpCalifornia.org (Available in various languages) <http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org>

LawHelpCalifornia.org provides low-income Californians with easy online access to basic legal resources and attorney information such as how to locate an attorney or advocacy group based on a specific issue of law.

## Court and Judicial Council Forms

Getting court forms is easy. Pick up forms at the nearest court location, OR visit the court website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

When visiting the website, one can either print forms directly, link to the Judicial Council website where one can browse forms from a pull-down menu, or link to the EZLegalFile interactive program where one can complete forms by responding to basic questions online. The website will automatically fill in portions of the form based upon your responses. Note: EZLegalFile is limited to the following case types: Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer (Landlord/Tenant), Family Law and Guardianship.



## A D I F F E R E N T K I N D O F C O U R T



### Collaborative and Restorative Justice

When one thinks about the courts and justice, visions of a jury and a judge sentencing a defendant to jail or prison materialize. But that is not always the case. In certain situations, offenders may be eligible to participate in what are called “collaborative” or “restorative” justice courts.

Collaborative justice courts are also known as “problem-solving courts” because they promote accountability to the community by combining judicial supervision with treatment and other rehabilitation services that are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery. Restorative justice courts also promote accountability by requiring offenders to make restitution to the community through work assignments in the local area where the crime was committed. Funding for these programs comes from a variety of federal, state, and local sources.

*“Collaborative justice courts, focusing on less serious drug offenses, mental health, domestic violence, and juvenile matters, have been remarkably successful at turning around lives . . . They change the offender for the better . . .”*

—Ronald M. George, Chief Justice, California State Supreme Court

### SAN DIEGO HAS NUMEROUS COLLABORATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURT PROGRAMS:

#### Adult Drug Court:

Adult Drug Court operates in each of the four divisions of the Superior Court in San Diego County, and is a collaboration between the court and the County’s Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement, and the treatment community. This minimum 18-month program includes intensive judicial supervision, drug treatment counseling, educational and vocational training opportunities, frequent random drug testing, and the use of court-imposed sanctions and incentives. Eligible offenders are those charged with non-violent felony cases where the underlying cause of the criminality is substance abuse.



## Dependency Court Recovery Program:

Parents entering the dependency system (i.e., whose children have been removed from the home), and who require alcohol and drug treatment services, receive a timely and thorough alcohol and drug assessment, focused treatment case management, and follow up. This program, created in the late 1990s, is collaboration between the court and the County's Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, County Counsel, and the treatment community. By providing targeted and effective alcohol and drug treatment services, the opportunity for recovery, family reunification and improved long-term outcomes is maximized.

For parents who are not able to meet court-ordered treatment goals, a specialized Dependency Drug Court provides more intensive substance abuse treatment and monitoring, random drug testing and increased judicial oversight in a therapeutic court setting. The program provides another tool for alcohol and drug-abusing parents who want to live a drug-free life to address their substance abuse problem, improve their ability to parent, and reunify with their children.

## Downtown Community Court:

The Downtown Community Court Program was developed as a collaboration between the Downtown San Diego Partnership and justice system agencies to address misdemeanor and infraction quality-of-life crimes (e.g., disturbing the peace and graffiti) occurring in the downtown San Diego area. The purpose of the program is to reduce the number of quality-of-life crimes committed in the designated area by requiring offenders to perform work service and make restitution to the downtown community, while offering them dismissal of their cases after successful completion of probation terms.







## Domestic Violence Review Court:

Misdemeanor Domestic Violence offenders who are sentenced to attend the mandatory 52-week Domestic Violence Recovery Program are scheduled for periodic progress review hearings before a Judge on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.

## Homeless Court:

Created by the Public Defender's Office in 1989 as the first Homeless Court in the nation, San Diego's program is aimed at a segment of the population that typically has no means for making reparations to the criminal justice system for misdemeanor criminal conduct. Homeless Court offers individuals an opportunity to resolve their outstanding criminal cases by participating in treatment programs rather than paying fines and/or serving time in jail. San Diego's Homeless Court program is convened once each month at either St. Vincent de Paul Village or Veterans' Village of San Diego. Homeless Court is also provided in the North County. The program is convened once a month at either Brother Benno's Center in Oceanside or the Vietnam Veterans' facility in Escondido.



## Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court:

The Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court program is designed to assist juveniles who have repeatedly been non-compliant in drug treatment, and who therefore need increased monitoring and supervision by the court. The Juvenile Drug Court is a collaborative program of the court, the County's Health and Human Services Agency, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, law enforcement, and the treatment community. Only non-violent juvenile offenders who are not in custody and who also have drug treatment as a condition of probation are eligible.

### **Mid-City Community Court:**

Created by the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 2003, the Mid-City Community Court focuses on misdemeanor quality-of-life crimes, including prostitution, marijuana possession, disturbing the peace, and graffiti in the Mid-City area of San Diego. Rather than having their criminal complaints filed with the court by the City Attorney, eligible offenders are sanctioned by a panel which includes community members. Offenders are ordered to perform community work service, attend rehabilitative and educational programs, and pay fines and fees.

### **Operation Stand Down Court:**

This is an annual event sponsored by the Veterans' Village of San Diego. In addition to a resource fair for homeless veterans, judges hold a court session at the event venue to adjudicate criminal infractions and minor misdemeanors cases for veterans who have outstanding cases. This event gives veterans an opportunity to dispose of minor offense citations and warrants on adjudicated cases without the fear of going to jail.



### **Proposition 36 Review Court:**

Beginning in 2001 after the statewide passage of Proposition 36, eligible misdemeanor and felony offenders who are convicted of Penal Code 1210 drug offenses are placed on formal probation supervision and receive treatment and testing services. They are also scheduled for periodic review hearings before a judicial officer on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.

#### **Questions About Collaborative Courts?**

**If you would like more information on any of the Collaborative Courts, please call the Public Affairs Office at (619) 531-4484**

# LEADERSHIP



## 2005

Presiding Judge

**JUDGE JOHN S. EINHORN**

Assistant Presiding Judge

**JUDGE JANIS SAMMARTINO**

Executive Committee Judges:

Judge Harry M. Elias

Judge Herbert J. Exarhos

Judge Jeffrey F. Fraser

Judge Lisa Guy-Schall

Judge Laura W. Halgren

Judge William J. Howatt, Jr.

Judge Susan D. Huguenor

Judge Joan M. Lewis

Judge Linda B. Quinn

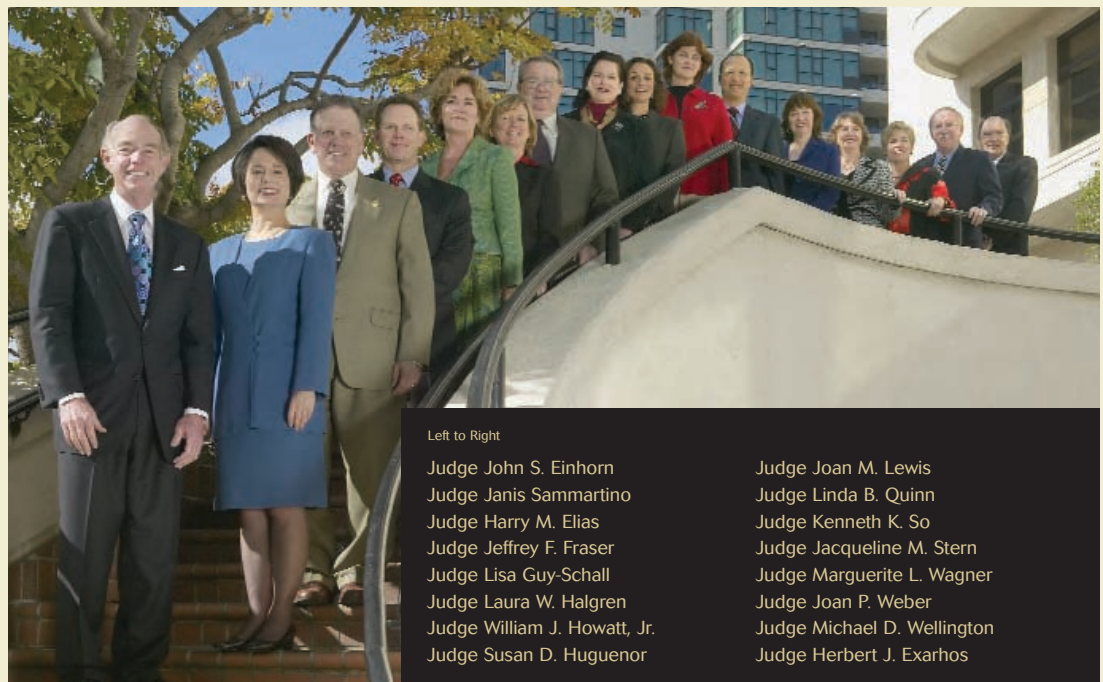
Judge Kenneth K. So

Judge Jacqueline M. Stern

Judge Marguerite L. Wagner

Judge Joan P. Weber

Judge Michael D. Wellington



Left to Right

Judge John S. Einhorn  
Judge Janis Sammartino  
Judge Harry M. Elias  
Judge Jeffrey F. Fraser  
Judge Lisa Guy-Schall  
Judge Laura W. Halgren  
Judge William J. Howatt, Jr.  
Judge Susan D. Huguenor

Judge Joan M. Lewis  
Judge Linda B. Quinn  
Judge Kenneth K. So  
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